In order to boost export of sugar, Government has taken the following steps:

(a) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation. This exemption, which was initially available for a period of six months, commencing from 1st June, 2000, has been extended upto 30.9.2001.

(b) It has been decided to treat the quantity exported for commercial exports as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(c) It has been decided that the levy exemption on the quantity of sugar meant for commercial exports, if it cannot be availed by the sugar factory out of 1999-2000 season's production due to the completion of its levy obligation, the same may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the ensuing sugar season.

(d) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the FOB value of exports sugar has been allowed.

In addition to the above Government also has under consideration proposals of making loans at concessional rates of interest for the rehabilitation of potentially viable sick sugar factories and to defray expenditure on internal transport and freight charges on export shipments of sugar.

Import of edible oil

471. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much edible oil was imported during the last three years togetherwith the details of tonnage and value in rupees;

(b) what measures are being taken to encourage farmers to shift to oilseeds cultivation; and

(c) whether it is a fact that oilseeds, cultivating farmers have incurred losses during the last three years; and if so, how Government propose to help such farmers financially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA

PRASAD): (a) Import of edible vegetable oils during the last three years is as under:—

YEAR	QUANTITY (in MT)	VALUE (Rs. Lakhs)
1998-99	2621851	758892.58
1999-2000	4195638	804605.37
2000-2001*	3974638	593275.74

*Provisional

(SOURCE: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta)

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in various States in the country to increase the production of oilseeds. There was a distress sale of some of the oilseeds like soyabean, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, coconut etc. However, in order to protect the interest of the growers, NAFED was instructed to procure the produce of the farmers on Minimum Support Price (MSP) where there was a distress sale.

Identification of BPL families

472. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether identification of BPL families has been completed in all the States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) if not, the norms required for such identification; and

(c) how many ration cards were issued for BPL families in Delhi and Shillong (Meghalaya)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) All the State Governments/UT Administrations except Lakshadweep have identified BPL families with varying degree of efficiency. Identification of target families is the most critical element for effecive implementation of TPDS, which is done by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The thrust is to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, artisan, potters, tappers, weavers etc. in rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis like porters, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, flower sellers in urban areas.